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**News Release** 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Team completes phase one of study to determine feasibility of recycling range residue

range residue

By Debra Valine

U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville

For the past five years, a team has been exploring the feasibility of building range residue recycling

facilities on Native American lands in Alaska, Hawaii and the continental United States.

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is partnering with Bering Sea

Eccotech (BSE) and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) to conduct a Centralized

Range Residue Recycling Facility feasibility study (CR3F).

"The phase one portion of the study is winding down," said Maureen Lawrence, the CR3F

project manager. "If we get the funding from Congress to continue, we will move into phase two.

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CR3F/2-2-2

"The next step is to present this concept to the commanders at the active military installations

who may benefit from these recycling facilities," Lawrence said. "Then we would need to develop

memoranda of understanding between the installations and the tribes that will be operating the

facilities."

Range residue recycling is the destruction or removal and proper disposition of military

munitions (unexploded ordnance and munitions debris) and other range-related debris (target debris,

military munitions packaging and crating material) to maintain or enhance operational range safety or

prevent the accumulation of such material from impairing or preventing operational range use.

"This project presents a great opportunity to provide economic growth that may improve the

lives and livelihoods in Indian Country, Alaska Native communities and on Hawaiian Homelands,"

said Elary Gromoff Jr., executive vice president, BSE. "This is a unique opportunity for BSE to work

with other Native Americans and Native Hawaiians to improve the environment, support American

military readiness and provide economic opportunities."

Following an exhaustive screening process, the potential sites have been narrowed down to

two in Alaska, two in Hawaii and four in the lower 48 states.

The team screened 562 groups recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and selected 14

tribes they believed were most capable of supporting a CR3F business: two in Alaska, two in Hawaii

and 10 in the continental United States.

"Each of the tribes selected received a letter from the Huntsville Center commander, followed

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CR3F/3-3-3

by a site visit with tribal leaders to discuss the possible partnership," said Arnecia Bradley, the

technical manager for the study. "We ended up with the two groups in Alaska, two in Hawaii and

four in the continental United States.

"We also provided status briefings to Congressional representatives on Capitol Hill," Bradley

said. "We used feedback from the tribes and members of Congress to address issues and make final

determinations."

The selected groups or sites include Eklutna and Nenana, Alaska; Barbers Point and Hilo,

Hawaii; The Mississippi Band of the Choctaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla

Reservation, Ore, and the Pueblo of Laguna and Navajo Nation in N.M. These sites were selected

based on a strict process that looked at land availability, tribe size, location, business infrastructure,

work force skill level and size, and proximity to mills.

"For each of the sites, we developed a detailed business plan and a project management

plan/action plan that included design and buildings plans along with permits; agreements, procedures

and approvals; and operation and maintenance manuals," said Frank Pickering, the assistant vice

president, Engineering and Infrastructure, SAIC.

"If we get the funds to proceed into phase two, we will be working to complete range residue

inventories, preparing a product recycle plan and assess any DoD certifications required," Lawrence

said. "A 'pilot' facility is being considered as a test bed for this project in an effort to ensure success

for facilities of this nature. Though this project is not the normal Formerly Used Defense Site type

work supported by the Ordnance and Explosives Design Center, we plan to accept this challenge and

provide the best service we possibly can."

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